

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus (4, 5, 6) for a weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising

a device (7) for beating-up the inserted weft threads (30) while moving to a beat-up line (36), the selvedge forming apparatus comprising

a device (20) for introducing an end (30A) of a weft thread (30), which has been inserted into a shed, into a subsequently formed shed,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~

the selvedge forming apparatus (4, 5, 6) comprises a blowing device (50, 61) arrangeable close to the plane of a selvedge (16, 17) of the fabric (2, 3) being woven for blowing an air-stream onto the introduced end (30A) of the weft thread (30) which air-stream is essentially directed towards the beat-up line (36).

2. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50, 61) has at least one blowing opening (51, 68) which may be arranged at a selvedge (16, 17) above or beneath the fabric (2, 3) being woven.

3. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50) is provided with a blowing opening (57) in the form of a slot which extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line (36).

4. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ blowing device (50, 61) is provided with several blowing openings (51, 68) which are arranged in one line (37) extending essentially parallel to the beat-up line (36).

5. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein anyone of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ the at least one blowing opening (51) is arranged in a side of a hollow needle (54) which in operation is positioned essentially parallel to the beat-up line (36).

6. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein anyone of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50, 61) is adjustably held such that its distance to the beat-up line (36) and/or its blowing direction may be adjusted.

7. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~wherein anyone of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50) is moveable by means of one or more drive units (28) such that its blowing direction and/or its position along the beat-up line (36) may be varied.

8. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~including anyone of claims 1 to 7, characterized by further comprising~~ a guiding element (56) for guiding the upper side and / or the under side of a selvedge (16, 17) of a fabric (2, 3) after the beat-up line (36).

9. (Currently Amended) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, ~~including anyone of claims 1 to 8, characterized by further comprising~~ guiding elements (67) for guiding the edge of the selvedge (16, 17) of a fabric (2, 3) after the beat-up line (36).

10. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine comprising a device for forming sheds of warp threads (14),

a device for inserting weft threads into the sheds,
a device (7) for beating up the inserted weft threads at a beat-up line (36),
and a selvage forming apparatus (4, 5, 6) comprising a device (20) for
introducing an end (30A) of an inserted weft thread (30) into a subsequently formed
shed,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the selvage forming apparatus (4, 5, 6)
comprises a blowing device (50, 61) arranged close to the plane of a selvage (16,
17) being formed for blowing an air-stream onto the end (30A) of the weft thread
(30) being introduced into the shed which air-stream is essentially directed towards
the beat-up line (36).

11. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50, 61) has at least one blowing opening
(51, 68) which is arranged at a selvage (16, 17) above or below the fabric (2, 3)
being woven.

12. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, wherein
~~or 11, characterized in that~~ the device for beating-up includes a reed (7) provided
with blades forming an U-shaped guiding channel, and the blowing device (50, 61),
during the beating up, is extending into the U-shaped guiding channel of the reed.

13. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, wherein
~~anyone of claims 10 to 12, characterized in that~~ the blowing device (50, 61, 63)
includes a hollow needle (54) provided with at least one blowing opening (51, 57).

14. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 13, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the hollow needle (54) extends substantially parallel to the

beat-up line (36) and is provided with at least one blowing opening (51, 57) at its side.

15. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, wherein ~~anyone of claims 10 to 13, characterized in that~~ at least one hollow needle (63) is directed approximately to the beat-up line (36) and is provided at its end with a blowing opening (51).

16. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, wherein ~~anyone of claims 10 to 15, characterized in that~~ the at least one hollow needle (50, 63) is attached to a support (8) for the fabric (2, 3) being woven, which support (8) is arranged after the beat-up line (36).

17. (Currently Amended) Weaving machine according to claim 10, including ~~anyone of the claims 10 to 16, characterized in that~~ a support (8) for the fabric (2, 3) being woven arranged after the beat-up line (36), which support is configured ~~designed~~ as a blowing device having at least one blowing opening essentially directed towards the beat-up line (36).

18. (Currently Amended) Method for forming a selvedge (16, 17) at a fabric (2, 3) during weaving

comprising the steps of

inserting a weft thread (30) into a shed formed of warp threads (14), beating-up the inserted weft thread by a device moving to a beat-up line (36),

introducing an end (30A) of the inserted weft thread (30) into a subsequently formed shed,

inserting the next weft thread (30B) into that subsequently formed shed, and beating-up this weft thread (30B) together with the end (30A) of the previously inserted weft thread (30) at the beat-up line (36),

wherein, ~~characterized in that~~ before beating up the end (30A) of the weft thread (30) an air-stream is blown onto said end (30A) of the weft thread (30) introduced into the shed, which air-stream is essentially directed towards the beat-up line (36).

19. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the air-stream is directed from below or above the plane of the fabric (2, 3) towards the beat-up line (36).

20. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein ~~or 19, characterized in that~~ the air-stream blows the introduced end (30A) of the weft thread (30) into a guide channel of a reed (7) which is moving toward the beat-up line (36).

21. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 18, wherein ~~anyone of claims 18, 19 or 20, characterized in that~~ the end (30A) of the inserted weft thread (30) is introduced into the subsequent shed by means of blowing that end into that subsequent shed.